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**Public Concern Over 12,000-acre AZ Housing Proposal Near San Pedro River (“Vigneto”)**

— In a campaign initiated by Tucson Audubon, the Wetlands Office has received over 600 e-mail letters opposing the proposed “Vigneto” residential development in the small town of Benson, Arizona. There is currently no federal action pending on the project, but an 8,000-acre version known as “Whetstone Ranch” was proposed on the site in 2006, involving 404 impacts to a dense network of desert streams tributary to the San Pedro River, an internationally-significant breeding hotspot. At the time, Region 9 listed the River as an Aquatic Resource of National Importance (ARNI), and identified the project as a candidate for HQ review, but ultimately the Corps District permitted the project. After years of a depressed housing market, the permit was transferred to new landowners in 2014. We are considering public response options this week, as letters continue to come in. (Brush 2-3483)